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SAYS TITO SUPPORTERS INCREASING

Belgrade, 17 December -- After the Russian fiasco in the Kostov trial, it is believed in Belgrade that the conflict between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia has entered a new and extremely dangerous phase.

The Sofia trial was Moscow's last attempt to accuse the Yugoslav Communists before the public and represent them as the guilty ones in the conflict. But the attempt has not only failed, it has injured the Soviet Union itself, because of the way the USSR imposed its will on the satellite states, distorted the truth, and ignored the most elementary human rights in that trial.

The new phase of the conflict may be recognized by the fact that the initiative has now passed from the Soviet Union to Tito, whose struggle against Moscow's hegemony is winning ever-increasing support in all Communist parties, particularly those of the satellite states. This has forced the Soviet Union into a dangerous defensive position against the Titoist tide, which threatens the Soviet system of power, based on involuntary subjection, in Eastern and Southern Europe. It is conceivable that the Russians in the near future will run the risk of military action against Yugoslavia in order to crush this threat.

It is obvious that the Russian position in the Balkans, particularly in Albania and Bulgaria, is actually jeopardized. Communist fugitives from both those countries with whom this correspondent spoke agreed that Yugoslavia is exercising a growing attraction in the Bulgarian and Albanian border areas. New refugees are constantly arriving from Bulgaria and Albania because the political and economic situation in Yugoslavia seems much brighter than the situation in their homelands.

Especially in the Bulgarian part of Macedonia, the irredentist movement is growing in strength, demanding separation from Bulgaria and annexation to the Yugoslavian portion of Macedonia. The Bulgarian authorities are attempting to gain mastery over the separatist factions by terror, mass arrests, and deportation.

Moreover, the anti-Communist opposition groups in Albania and Bulgaria are beginning to show certain sympathy for Tito's Yugoslavia. -- Bretholz, Svenska Dagbladet correspondent.

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